

Undergraduate Catalog of Courses

Volume 2019 2019-2020

Article 50

7-1-2019

Theology & Religious studies

Saint Mary's College of California

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/undergraduate-catalog>

Recommended Citation

Saint Mary's College of California (2019) "Theology & Religious studies," *Undergraduate Catalog of Courses*: Vol. 2019 , Article 50.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/undergraduate-catalog/vol2019/iss1/50>

This Curriculum is brought to you for free and open access by Saint Mary's Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Catalog of Courses by an authorized editor of Saint Mary's Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@stmarys-ca.edu.

THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religion is a fundamental dimension of human life: vital, pervasive, richly complex and multi-faceted. Its traditions, values, beliefs and practices form the basic categories of meaning for both individuals and cultures. It helps us to ask and answer essential questions about our relationship to God, self, others and the world. The discipline of Theology approaches religion from the perspective of faith, as “faith seeking understanding”, and asks: What is the nature of God, How is this revealed to us, What does it mean to believe in God, What is the nature of the relationship between us, and How is that relationship lived and experienced? The discipline of Religious Studies approaches religion as a fundamental dimension of human life, using a social scientific lens to investigate the religions (separately and in comparison) as well as religious phenomena in general to discover how it affect fundamental experiences of meaning for cultures and persons.

We offer courses that systematically and critically analyze a wide range of theological perspectives and ethical questions that are central in the formation of religious identity. As an integral part of the Catholic mission of Saint Mary's College, we strive to provide students with an opportunity to know and intimately understand the Catholic tradition in all its richness and fullness: biblically, historically, theologically, ethically and aesthetically. We also offer courses in a wide array of world religions since it is crucial that future leaders and responsible citizens have an understanding of the ideologies and faiths of their dialogue partners.

Furthermore, the exploration of these essential questions occupies an important place in a liberal arts education which seeks to expand the mind and guide students to a deeper level of understanding. Our offerings continually charge students to think for themselves, to challenge preconceived notions and to remain open to learning from the perspectives of others. As part of our Lasallian heritage and our understanding of what it means to be a person in light of God's love and grace, revealed especially in Jesus Christ, we join with the Christian Brothers in being concerned for the whole person and in fostering a genuine concern for justice in the world while integrating faith and service

FACULTY

Thomas J. Poundstone, PhD, Associate Professor, Chair
 Brother Michael Avila, FSC, PhD, Adjunct Associate Professor
 Michael Barram, PhD, Professor
 Anne Carpenter, PhD, Assistant Professor
 Father David Gentry-Akin, STD, Professor
 David Zachariah Flanagan, PhD, Professor
 Paul Giurlanda, PhD, Professor
 Brother Mark McVann, FSC, PhD, Professor
 Brother Michael F. Meister, FSC, PhD, Assistant Professor
 Father Thomas McElligott, Adjunct Associate Professor
 Felicidad Oberholzer, PhD, Professor Emeritus
 Marie Pagliarini, PhD, Associate Professor
 Norris Palmer, PhD, Professor

The Theology & Religious Studies (TRS) Department plays a key role in the educational experience at Saint Mary's College, offering not only a major and two minor courses of study, but also participating extensively in the College's core curriculum—by providing courses designed to meet the Theological Understanding goal of the core curriculum. As part of the process of serious academic study, members of the department hope that, in addition to meeting specific core requirements, students will join us in taking pleasure in the study of theology and religion even as they learn to converse insightfully and respectfully about it. Moreover, we hope that students will develop an appreciation for the depth and breadth of the Christian tradition while gaining an increasing awareness both of the mystery of life and of themselves as called by that mystery.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The major in Theology & Religious Studies requires a minimum of ten courses, including the following:

LOWER DIVISION

TRS 97 *The Bible and Its Interpretation* (or its transfer equivalent), TRS 189 *The Bible and Its Interpretation: Great Themes*

UPPER DIVISION

- **TRS 129 Foundations of Theology**
- **TRS 179 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion**
- One course, selected with guidance of one's faculty advisor, from each of the following four areas:
 - Christian History: **TRS 101, 102, 103, or 180**
 - Gospel Exegesis: **TRS 114 or 115**
 - Ethics: **TRS 141, 142, 143, or 184**
 - World Religions and Method: **TRS 153, 154, 155, 156, or 185**
- Two Intensive Inquiry courses, at least one of which must be designated as WID (Writing in the Disciplines): **TRS 180–187**
- A minimum of one additional elective course

"Intensive Inquiry" courses (classes numbered 180–187, below) are regularly offered in the various areas of study that make up the course offerings of the department. These courses give students the opportunity to engage in the kind of in-depth thinking and research that will best prepare them for graduate work in the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJORS

MAJORS IN THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES WILL:

CORE CURRICULUM

1. **MEET** the outcomes for both "Christian Foundations" and "Theological Explorations" of the SMC Core Curriculum.

MAJOR CONTENT

2. **DEMONSTRATE** an understanding of the biblical, theological, historical, and ethical components of the Christian tradition.
3. **DEMONSTRATE** an understanding of the implications of the Catholic concept of the fundamental dignity of the human person.
4. **DEMONSTRATE** an understanding of the worldview (e.g., beliefs, practices, etc.) of a non-Christian religious tradition.

MAJOR SKILLS

5. **DEMONSTRATE** an ability to employ contemporary theories and methods of biblical exegesis, systematic theology, and religious studies.
6. **DEMONSTRATE** an ability to explain, analyze, and evaluate multiple informed perspectives in debates about theological and ethical issues.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

MINOR IN THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The minor in Theology & Religious Studies requires five courses: **TRS 97 The Bible and Its Interpretation** (or its transfer equivalent, **TRS 179 The Bible and Its Interpretation: Great Themes**); **TRS 129 Foundations of Theology** or **TRS 179 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion**; and any three upper-division courses selected with the guidance of the Chair, one of which must be an Intensive Inquiry course (**180–187**).

"Intensive Inquiry" courses (classes numbered 180–187, below) are regularly offered in the various areas of study that make up the course offerings of the department. These courses give students the opportunity to engage in the kind of in-depth thinking and research that will best prepare them for graduate work in the field.

MINOR IN CATHOLIC TRADITION

The Theology & Religious Studies Department also offers a focused minor in the "Catholic Tradition." Six courses are required: **TRS 97 The Bible and Its Interpretation** (or its transfer equivalent, **TRS 189 The Bible and Its Interpretation: Great Themes**); two of the following three courses, preferably in sequence: **TRS 101 Origins of Christianity**, **TRS 102 Medieval Christianity**, and **TRS 103 Reformations**; **TRS 141 Christian Ethics** or **TRS 143 Catholic Social Teaching**; and two electives from a list of classes focusing on the Catholic tradition.

PREREQUISITE GRADE

Theology & Religious Studies 97 (or its junior transfer equivalent, **TRS 189**) is a prerequisite for any upper-division theology and religious studies course; however, only a passing grade in **TRS 97** (or **189**) is required, not a minimum grade of C–.

C O U R S E S

LOWER DIVISION

97 The Bible and Its Interpretation

This course focuses on the Bible, the sacred scriptures of the Jewish and Christian peoples. This diverse collection of writings has served as inspiration and catalyst for a great number of central events in human history—from the movements of liberation led by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., to the great human tragedies of slavery in the Old South and the medieval Crusades. These texts have also had a profound influence on art, literature, philosophy, and politics for over two thousand years of history, particularly in the West. As such, an understanding of the Bible is essential for a well-informed perspective on the world. This course will introduce students to the most important biblical events and themes, raising questions of the influence and relevance of this text for the modern world. This course will also teach students to employ critical, scholarly tools for reading and interpretation, such as historical and literary criticism, as well as various lenses for the modern academic study of religion. Co-curricular lectures are an integral part of this class. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Christian Foundations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

UPPER DIVISION

CHRISTIAN HISTORY

100 Topics in Christian History

An investigation of a topic in Christian history not covered by the regular offerings of the department. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

101 Origins of Christianity

The Christian religion begins its story with only a few dozen followers of a crucified man in the first century—backwater, uneducated, and unlikely to survive very long in a Mediterranean world dominated by much more powerful religious systems. Yet, within less than three centuries, Christianity would overwhelm the Roman Empire and beyond, building an elaborate theological and ecclesiastical system that would last until the present day. The course examines the rise of this Christian movement, focusing on such topics as Gnosticism, martyrdom, and the development of Christian ideas about Jesus. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

102 Medieval Christianity

The European Middle Ages was a world dominated by monks, popes, and mystics. Life was an uninterrupted struggle between heaven and hell, life and death, priests and kings. This course is an introduction to the major figures, events, and movements of this period from the fall of Rome to the dawn of modernity. Students will have the opportunity to explore the great pillars of medieval religion—monasticism, papalism, theology, and mysticism. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

103 Reformations

Every age of Christian history has been marked by the call for religious reform—renewing both the personal lives of each believer and the institutional structures that endure through the centuries. However, such a universal passion for reform took on special importance in the 15th and 16th centuries, a period that has come to be known as The Reformation. This course explores the variety of reforming voices—Protestant and Catholic—that shaped the future of Christianity, giving special attention to the major theological and political issues that dominated the time. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

SCRIPTURE

110 Topics in the Study of Scripture

An investigation of a topic in scripture not covered by the regular offerings of the department. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

111 The Pentateuch

A study of the first five books of the Bible, the history of their composition, and their theological contributions to Judaism and Christianity. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

114 The Gospel of Mark

A close study of the Gospel of Mark with an emphasis on its literary, historical, social, and political background. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

115 Jesus and His Teaching

An exploration of the teaching attributed to Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (e.g., the Sermon on the Mount, parables, and other memorable statements), emphasizing the ways in which Jesus' statements have been interpreted and appropriated. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

116 Paul's Letters and Legacy

An in-depth examination of the letters of Paul, focusing on the mission and message of the apostle in his Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts. Students develop a broad understanding of the apostle's work and thought, as well as an appreciation for the historic and continuing impact of these documents. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

117 Wealth and Poverty in the Bible

This course explores biblical and theological perspectives and values on wealth, poverty, and economic justice, paying particular attention to potential implications those issues may have for the contemporary Christian community and wider society. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement, the American Diversity requirement, and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

118 Women and the Bible

This course explores the current status of feminist biblical interpretation focusing on the major female characters of the Bible and on their modern feminist interpreters. We will use the tools of academic criticism (historical, literary, rhetorical, et al.) in an attempt to understand the places, roles, and agency of women in the biblical text, in the ancient world that lies behind the text, and in the worlds formed on the belief that these biblical texts are sacred scripture. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

119 Apocalypse and Eschatology

This course explores the life and afterlife of the Book of Revelation: its origins in contemporary Jewish and Christian literature and world-views, its meaning for a first-century Christian readership, and the long and fascinating history of its interpretation, from the early church to modern fascination with the Antichrist, the Millennium, and the Rapture. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

120 Topics in Systematic Theology

An investigation of an area of Christian thought not covered by the regular offerings of the department. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

121 Belief and Unbelief

An investigation, theoretical and existential, of the challenge of faith today with special attention to the “new atheists” and Christian responses to them. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

122 Jesus: Human and Divine

This course examines the traditional sources of the Christian community’s understanding of Jesus of Nazareth in the light of contemporary concerns and critiques. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

123 Sex and the Spirit

An exploration of a contested area in Christian thought today, setting traditional understandings in dialogue with contemporary concerns and critiques. How does our experience of ourselves as sexual beings open us to the experience of the holy; and, conversely, how might our desire for God be intimately related to our sexual desire and longings? These are the questions that will be the focus of our work. Not a course on sexual ethics, this course is an exploration of the complex interrelationship of sexual and spiritual desire as both are reflected upon in the Christian spiritual tradition and others. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

125 Theologies of Liberation

The task of Christian theologies of liberation is to critically reflect on a historical situation in light of Christian faith, with a commitment to historical transformation. This course will introduce students to ways of thinking with a theological lens by questioning how liberation theological perspectives can help to respond to particular historical situations. The course will challenge students to develop perspectives through which they can (a) engage the world and (b) understand the human-divine relationship in ways that push beyond the centrality of dominant U.S. American and Western European perspectives. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

126 Theology of Creation: The Incarnate Word in an Evolving Universe

It is popularly thought that Christian faith and evolutionary biology are firmly opposed to one another, and that Christians frequently underplay ecological concerns because of an excessive emphasis on a salvation from this world and into the world of heaven. This course will seek to debunk both of those assumptions by exploring a theology of Creation that understands Creation to be nothing less than the outpouring of the love of the Trinitarian God. The course will explore the emerging new scientific story of the universe, and harvest the rich insights about Creation that can be gleaned from the First and Second Testaments, the patristic and medieval traditions, and contemporary systematic theology. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

127 In the Face of Mystery: Using Faith and Reason in the Search for God

For the Catholic intellectual, faith and reason are integrally related as two sources for coming to know about God. As St. John Paul II writes in his encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know Godself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.” So the journey of understanding God is also intrinsically related to the search for truth, the search to understand the mystery of the human person, and, ultimately, the search for self-understanding. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

128 The Trinity

The heart of Christianity, its strangest and most fascinating set of beliefs, rests in the Trinity. This course explores the Christian doctrine of God through its most significant controversies, both ancient and modern. Students will acquire a more thorough context for the Christian understanding of God, as well as a more robust sense of this understanding as it continues in the present. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

129 Foundations of Theology

This is a required course for majors and minors under the revised theology major. It is meant to offer students a fundamental understanding of what academic theology is and what it does, what sources it uses, and its history. All four aspects of theology—what it is, what it does, its sources, its history—work together to teach students how to think theologically. Special emphasis is placed on learning the standards of modern academic theology. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. Limited to TRS majors and minors.*

131 Christian Spirituality

This course explores the experience, understanding, and living out of the Christian faith. It studies classical and contemporary texts of some of its most important figures of Christian spirituality. It examines various expressions of spirituality in architecture, poetry, painting, and music. It considers the question of religion versus spirituality as well as the question of relating to God within a universe of galaxies that seems to dwarf all human experience. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

132 Sexuality, Marriage and Family: A Catholic Perspective

A presentation of the teaching of the Church on all aspects of sexuality, marriage and family. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

133 Life Stories and Theology

Uses narratives of exemplary lives, ancient and modern, Christian and non-Christian, as a tool to investigate the task of authentic existence today in the light of the gospel. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

134 The Catholic Imagination

The thesis of this course is that there is a unique way of looking at the world: "the Catholic Imagination." This imagination can be discerned, not only in church teaching, but also in art and architecture, music painting, fiction, poetry, and film, in the church's concern for social justice, and in the stories of individual women and men of faith, many of whom have shown incredible vision and heroism. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

135 Christian Liturgy and Sacrament

Without a direct and living encounter with God in prayer, the Christian religion becomes little more than a collection of intellectual propositions and dead ideals. But what does it mean to encounter God in prayer? Christians have struggled greatly with this question over the course of their history. Students will have an opportunity to enter into this long conversation by exploring the practice of Christian worship from its ancient roots in Judaism to the present age and by examining the theological explanations given for the nature of that worship over time. Controversies in early and Medieval/Reformation Christianity will help frame a discussion over the role of the liturgy in our current context. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

136 Saints Yesterday and Today

We often think of Saints as exceptionally holy people, but they were first of all flesh-and-blood human beings like each of us. Every religious tradition has them—men and women who, beyond the ordinarieness of life's circumstances, lived extraordinary lives or did extraordinary things. And so we venerate them because they have become heroes, models, examples, and mediators between ourselves and God whom they now see face to face. In this course we will encounter Saints and saints—ancient, modern, hidden, popular, unknown, heroic—and explore their lives in history, in devotion, in literature, in art, and in the tradition of the Church. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

137 The Virgin Mary

This course examines the roots and rise of Christian, especially Catholic, devotion to the Virgin Mary. Thought concerning Mary as expressed in the writings of the Church Fathers as well as the growth of traditional popular Marian piety will be addressed. Doctrine (official teaching) as well as devotional practices (rosary, scapular, etc.) and phenomena (such as the apparitions at Guadalupe and Lourdes) will all be examined. Contemporary fiction and autobiography are also included as evidence of the continuing relevance of the Virgin Mary to modern life and living. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

ETHICS

140 Topics in Christian Ethics

An investigation of a topic in ethics not covered by the regular offerings of the department. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

141 Christian Ethics

This course introduces students to the disciplined study of ethics in the Roman Catholic tradition and the reformulation of Catholic ethics taking place in the spirit of Vatican II. The primary focus is on the fundamental topics of moral theology: what difference Jesus makes to moral theology, the role of scripture, virtue, the conscience, sin and conversion, the fundamental option, proportionalism, the teaching authority of the church on moral matters, and the relation of morality to civil law. Concrete issues such as contraception and homosexuality will be considered as test cases for Roman Catholic moral theology and as illustrations of the debates and tensions present in Catholic ethics since Vatican II. This course also integrates the insights of Christian ethics through a discussion of film and drama. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations), Common Good, and Community Engagement requirements of the Core Curriculum.*

142 Medical Ethics

Ethics—how we should live—is at the core of medical practice. With the dramatic changes in medical practice in recent decades, from new technologies, to changes in financing, to a changed conception of patient rights, medical ethics has rapidly moved from obscurity to become one of the most important areas of applied ethics. This course explores the relation between religious and moral values and the choices we as individuals and as a society make about health care. Basic principles and methods of contemporary medical ethics will be introduced, along with a focus on virtue ethics and competing models of the patient-physician relationship. A wide range of issues will be analyzed: informed consent, confidentiality, research on human subjects, reproductive technology, appropriate care for seriously ill newborns, abortion, gene therapy, quality-of-life assessments, terminal sedation, withdrawal of nutrition and hydration, physician-assisted suicide, and proposals for health-care reform. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

143 Catholic Social Teaching

Explores the Catholic approach to questions of social justice (e.g., the problems of poverty, exploitation, and racism). *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement, the Common Good requirement, and the Community Engagement requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

WORLD RELIGIONS

150 Topics in World Religions

An investigation of a topic in world religions not covered by the regular offerings of the department. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189.*

151 Judaism

Modern Jewish life is the product of more than 3000 years of evolving thought, worship, traditions, theology, history, and civilization. This course examines these interweaving strands of Jewish civilization as it investigates the dynamic role Judaism plays for its adherents then and now. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

152 Islam: Beliefs and Practices

This course introduces students to the ideas that shaped Islamic history, from the early pre-Islamic period and the conditions prevalent at Islam's inception all the way to the present. The basic belief system, rituals, mystical traditions and Islamic societal interaction will be studied with ample references from the Qur'an and prophetic statements. The Prophet Muhammad will be explored in depth and various sources of historical record will be examined. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the Global Perspective requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

153 Eastern Religions

This course is an introduction to the study of religion by way of four of the world's major traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and/or the Chinese religious field (Confucianism and Taoism). The emphasis will be on each tradition's views of the nature of ultimate reality, human nature, the highest good that life can attain, and the conduct that leads to that attainment. Attention will also be given to the difficulties of trying to cross conceptual boundaries. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the Global Perspective requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

154 Hinduism

This course examines the cultural/religious phenomenon of "Hinduism" in a number of its ancient and modern forms by examining how it has developed in the context of historical forces and responded to the modern world as it adapts to a global setting. It examines dimensions of Hindu theology and philosophy; the role of deities, temples, and cultural practices; investigates central myths, much-loved stories, global gurus, and Bollywood films. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the Global Perspective requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

155 Buddhism

This course examines the history, thought, and practice of Buddhism by studying the enduring themes and cultural adaptations of its main schools through primary and secondary texts, art, video/audio, and field trips. We trace a number of Buddhism's developments from its founding in India to its present forms around the globe by examining each of the Three Jewels, that is, Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the Global Perspective requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

156 Religions of India

India's long and rich history of religious diversity is both well-known and highly complex. We focus our study on a number of religious traditions (Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, and/or Parsi) within a wide variety of their historical and cultural settings. Our study will examine both individual traditions and the complex history of their interaction. We'll also examine how religions interact with political, social, and economic systems as well as look at examples of religious pluralism together with its promises and problems in historic and contemporary settings within India and beyond. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the Global Perspective requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

157 Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue

This course proceeds under the assumption that various of the world's religions are similar in enough ways to make some comparison possible and different enough to make it interesting. The history, prospects, and limitations of pluralism and interreligious dialogue are considered within the context of an increasingly global world. *Prerequisite: TRS 097 or TRS 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

RELIGION AND THE ARTS

160 Topics in Religion and the Arts

An investigation of a topic of religion and culture not covered by the regular offerings of the department. Topics are announced prior to each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189.

162 Biblical Themes in Literature

Religious and biblical themes are woven into important works of modern American fiction. This course usually features a critical reading of biblical texts like *Genesis*, *Exodus*, and *Maccabees* followed by a reading of plays and novels like *Inherit the Wind*, *A Different Drummer*, and *The Chosen*. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

163 Saints Yesterday and Today

We often think of Saints as exceptionally holy people, but they were first of all flesh-and-blood human beings like each of us. Every religious tradition has them—men and women who, beyond the ordinarieness of life's circumstances, lived extraordinary lives or did extraordinary things. And so we venerate them because they have become heroes, models, examples, and mediators between ourselves and God whom they now see face to face. In this course we will encounter Saints and saints—ancient, modern, hidden, popular, unknown, heroic—and explore their lives in history, in devotion, in literature, in art, and in the tradition of the Church. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

164 Dante and The Divine Comedy

This course offers an in-depth spiritual and literary exploration of one of the greatest works of world literature: Dante's *Divine Comedy*. The theme of pilgrimage engages both Dante and the students in a journey to redemption by a deep acquaintance with sin (*Inferno*), an experience of repentance and forgiveness (*Purgatorio*), and a vision of eternal re-union (*Paradiso*). The course explores the pro- found and eternal consequences of choice and free will as God's greatest gift, and how our understanding and experience of love grows in clarity through the greater union of ourselves with the divine. Dante and his readers—all pilgrims—struggle toward maturity while wrestling with the disguises and even the glamor of evil, the necessity of personal honesty and introspection, and the unexpected breadth of God's mercy. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

165 Spiritual, Not Religious: Emerson to the New Age

The American tradition of individual seeking in religion is as old as the Republic, but may be said to have its serious origin in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson. This course seeks to situate the contemporary phrase "spiritual, not religious," in a larger historical context and to compare contemporary American understandings of spirituality without institutional borders to more traditional understandings of spirituality. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

166 Spirituality in Practice: Catholics in America

This course takes a cultural and theoretical approach to religion and focuses on Catholicism as it is experienced and practiced in everyday life. We will explore religion through concepts such as space, time, power, material culture, ritual, and the body, and use these concepts to understand more deeply the experience and practice of spirituality. Throughout the course, we will pay attention to the religious forms that develop when cultures come together, collide, or in other ways interact, and the relationship between religion and race, ethnicity, class, and gender. Students will have the opportunity to use theoretical ideas developed in the class to analyze practices such as religious pilgrimage and altar-building, and the role of material culture and the body in religious experience. The course is cross-listed with Ethnic Studies. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the American Diversity requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

167 Visual Theology: Christian Art and Architecture

This course examines the art and architecture that artists over the centuries have created in their attempts to give visible embodiment to their religious experiences. The course focuses on what their creations reveal of how they understood the gospel, what they saw as essential to that message, how well they gave expression to the deepest longings of the human heart, and the influence of their creations on our understanding of the Christian faith. The course also examines such things as the role and power of visual communication, mining art both Christian and secular for its theological insight. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

168 Encountering Christian Art: Rome

This quarter-credit course is an on-site introduction and exploration of the theological dimensions of the works of Christian art and architecture in the city of Rome, focusing on the churches of Rome where much of this art is housed, but also featuring study of the catacombs and the Vatican Museums. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189.

RELIGION AND CULTURE

170 Topics in Religion and Culture

An investigation of a topic in the field of Religious Studies not covered by the regular offerings of the department. Topics are announced prior to each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189.

171 Gender and Religion in American Culture

This course focuses on the relationship between gender and religion in North American history and culture. We will explore gender as a category of analysis for the study of religion, and the ways that religions construct and deconstruct gender norms. Religion is lived and practiced, and therefore it cannot be separated from the gendered bodies that people inhabit. We will use historical and contemporary case studies to examine the way that notions of femininity and masculinity have played a role in the religious lives of Americans. The course is cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the American Diversity requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

172 Religion, Media, and Culture

This course explores the relationship between religion, media, and culture, with an emphasis on the contemporary North American context. We will analyze the way that religion is experienced and practiced in everyday life and the impact of various forms of media (material, visual, digital) and cultural products/practices on religion in the modern era. Students will have the opportunity to think critically about the relationship between contemporary religious forms and capitalism, and the way that the study of religion, media, and culture challenges assumptions about the nature of “authentic” religion and spirituality. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189.

173 Colonialism, Race & Religion

Ways of classifying the human person, including race, developed within the histories of European colonialism. These forms of social classification profoundly shaped the idea of “America,” and continue to shape the present historical situation in the United States. To understand better our immediate historical situations, it is crucial to have a deeper understanding of how colonialism, constructions of race, and religion worked together in the formation of the North Atlantic context out of which the United States emerged. In this course, we will specifically locate the reality of the United States and sets of relationship within the North Atlantic World within the history of European colonialism. *Prerequisite(s) and/or corequisite(s):* TRS 097 or TRS 189.

174 Sustainability, Religion, Spirituality

Since Lynn White’s groundbreaking article in 1967, debate has raged among scholars, activists, and members of religious communities about the role(s) of religion and of specific religions in fostering unsustainability and in achieving sustainability. As part of this debate, some have proposed the existence and importance of a spirituality unconnected with historical or new religions as a key component of moving toward sustainability. This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to these questions both in their historical and contemporary forms. *Prerequisite:* TRS 097 or 189.

175 Spiritual, Not Religious: Emerson to the New Age

The American tradition of individual seeking in religion is as old as the Republic, but may be said to have its serious origin in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson. This course seeks to situate the contemporary phrase “spiritual, not religious,” in a larger historical context and to compare contemporary American understandings of spirituality without institutional borders to more traditional understandings of spirituality. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

176 Spirituality in Practice: Catholics in America

This course takes a cultural and theoretical approach to religion and focuses on Catholicism as it is experienced and practiced in everyday life. We will explore religion through concepts such as space, time, power, material culture, ritual, and the body, and use these concepts to understand more deeply the experience and practice of spirituality. Throughout the course, we will pay attention to the religious forms that develop when cultures come together, collide, or in other ways interact, and the relationship between religion and race, ethnicity, class, and gender. Students will have the opportunity to use theoretical ideas developed in the class to analyze practices such as religious pilgrimage and altar-building, and the role of material culture and the body in religious experience. The course is cross-listed with Ethnic Studies. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement and the American Diversity requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

179 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion

This course focuses on the theories and methods that have been foundational to the academic study of religion. It covers classical and contemporary approaches to the study of religion and the development of religious studies as an academic discipline. *Prerequisite:* TRS 97 or 189. *Limited to TRS majors and minors.*

INTENSIVE INQUIRY COURSES

180 Intensive Inquiry in Christian History

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Christian history, designed for TRS majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. *Prerequisite:* Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.

181 Intensive Inquiry in Scripture

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Scripture, designed for TRS majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite:* Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor. *This course satisfies the Writing in the Disciplines requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

182 Intensive Inquiry in Systematic Theology

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Systematic Theology, designed for TRS majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite:* Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.

183 Intensive Inquiry in Sacraments and Spirituality

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Sacraments and Spirituality, designed for TRS majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite:* Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.

184 Intensive Inquiry in Ethics

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Ethics, designed for **TRS** majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.*

185 Intensive Inquiry in World Religions

An in-depth investigation of a topic in World Religions, designed for **TRS** majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.*

186 Intensive Inquiry in Religion and the Arts

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Religion and the Arts, designed for **TRS** majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.*

187 Intensive Inquiry in Religion and Culture

An in-depth investigation of a topic in Religion and Culture, designed for **TRS** majors and minors. Topics are announced prior to registration each semester. May be repeated for credit when content changes. *Prerequisite: Two TRS courses, or permission of instructor.*

189 The Bible and Its Interpretation: Great Themes

Intended for junior transfers (16.0+ entering credits), this course focuses on the Bible, the sacred scriptures of the Jewish and Christian peoples, texts that have had a profound influence on religion, art, politics, and culture for over two thousand years. This course will introduce Backspace to avoid gap students to the most important biblical texts and themes, focusing especially on the Torah and the Gospels, and will teach students to employ critical, scholarly tools for reading and interpretation. In addition, each section of this course will focus on a special issue, theme, or question that appears in a diversity of biblical texts and that moves beyond the Bible to modern relevance or implications (e.g., justice, politics, liturgy, theodicy, art). Co-curricular lectures are an integral part of this class. *Prerequisite: None. May not be taken by students who have completed TRS 97. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Christian Foundations) requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

195 Internship

Work-study program conducted in an internship position under the supervision of a faculty member. *Permission of instructor and department chair required.*

197 Special Study

An independent study or research course for students whose needs are not met by the regular course offerings of the department. *Permission of the department Chair and instructor required.*

199 Special Study – Honors

An independent study or research course for upper-division majors with at least a B average in theology & religious studies. *Permission of the department Chair and instructor required.*